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PTO/SB/01 (12/97)  
Approved for use through 9/30/00. OMB 0651-0032  
Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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<b>DECLARATION FOR UTILITY OR DESIGN PATENT APPLICATION (37 CFR 1.63)</b>  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Declaration Submitted with Initial Filing      OR <input type="checkbox"/> Declaration Submitted after Initial Filing (surcharge (37 CFR 1.16(e)) required)	<b>Attorney Docket Number</b>	27153.2400
	<b>First Named Inventor</b>	Thomas KRUSE
	<b>COMPLETE IF KNOWN</b>	
	<b>Application Number</b>	/
	<b>Filing Date</b>	
	<b>Group Art Unit</b>	
	<b>Examiner Name</b>	To be assigned

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address, and citizenship are as stated below next to my name.

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

**METHOD FOR DARKENING A SUPERFICIAL LAYER WHICH CONTAINS ZINC AND WHICH IS OF A MATERIAL PIECE**

the specification of which (Title of the invention)

☐ is attached hereto

OR

☒ was filed on (MM/DD/YYYY) 12/17/1999 as United States Application Number or PCT International

Application Number PCT/EP99/10036 and was amended on (MM/DD/YYYY) 11/15/2000 (if applicable).

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment specifically referred to above:

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR 1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d) or 365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate, or 365(a) of any PCT international application which designated at least one country other than the United States of America, listed below and have also identified below, by checking the box, any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate, or of any PCT international application having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed.

Prior Foreign Application Number(s)	Country	Foreign Filing Date (MM/DD/YYYY)	Priority Not Claimed	Certified Copy Attached? YES	NO
198 58 795.3	Germany	12/18/1998	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>

☐ Additional foreign application numbers are listed on a supplemental priority data sheet PTO/SB/02B attached hereto:

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. 119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below.

Application Number(s)	Filing Date (MM/DD/YYYY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Additional provisional application numbers are listed on a supplemental priority data sheet PTO/SB/02B attached hereto.

[Page 1 of 2]

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 0.2 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.

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## DECLARATION ---- Utility or Design Patent Application

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. 120 of any United States application(s), or 365(c) of any PCT international application designating the United States of America, listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States or PCT International application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR 1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application.

U.S. Parent Application or PCT Parent Number	Parent Filing Date (MM/DD/YYYY)	Parent Patent Number (if applicable)
PCT/EP99/10036	12/17/1999	

☐ Additional U.S. or PCT international application numbers are listed on a supplemental priority data sheet PTO/SB/02B attached hereto.

As a named inventor, I hereby appoint the following registered practitioner(s) to prosecute this application and to transmit all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith:

☒ Customer Number 020322

Place Customer  
Number Bar Code  
Label here

☐ OR  
Registered practitioner(s) name/registration number listed below

Name	Registration Number	Name	Registration Number

☐ Additional registered practitioner(s) named on supplemental Registered Practitioner information sheet PTO/SB/02C attached hereto.

Direct all correspondence to: ☒ Customer Number or Bar Code Label 020322 OR ☒ Correspondence address below

Name	Damon L. Boyd				
Address	SNELL & WILMER, LLP				
Address	One Arizona Center, 400 East Van Buren Street				
City	Phoenix	State	AZ	ZIP	85004-2202
Country	USA	Telephone	602-382-6337	Fax	602-382-6070

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under 18 U.S.C. 1001 and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Name of Sole or First Inventor:		<input type="checkbox"/> A petition has been filed for this unsigned inventor			
Given Name (first and middle (if any))		Family Name or Surname			
Thomas		KRUSE			
Inventor's Signature	<i>Thomas Kruse</i>			Date	5/21/2001
Residence: City	Dortmund	State		Country	Germany
Post Office Address	Spissenagelstr. 94				
Post Office Address					
City	Dortmund	State		ZIP	44229
				Country	Germany

☒ Additional inventors are being named on the 1 supplemental Additional Inventor(s) sheet(s) PTO/SB/02A attached

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PTO/SB/02A (12/97)

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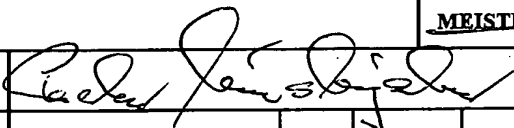
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## DECLARATION

## ADDITIONAL INVENTOR(S) Supplemental Sheet

Page 1 of 1

<b>Name of Additional Joint Inventor, if any:</b>				<input type="checkbox"/> A petition has been filed for this unsigned inventor			
Given Name (first and middle [if any])				Family Name or Surname			
<u>Peter</u>				<u>MEISTERIAHN</u>			
Inventor's Signature				Date	05/21/2001		
Residence: City	<u>Iserlohn</u>	State		Country	<u>Germany</u>	Citizenship	<u>DE</u>
Post Office Address	<u>Saatweg, 70</u>						
Post Office Address							
City	<u>Iserlohn</u>	State		ZIP	<u>58644</u>	Country	<u>Germany</u>
<b>Name of Additional Joint Inventor, if any:</b>				<input type="checkbox"/> A petition has been filed for this unsigned inventor			
Given Name (first and middle [if any])				Family Name or Surname			
Inventor's Signature				Date			
Residence: City		State		Country		Citizenship	
Post Office Address							
Post Office Address							
City		State		ZIP		Country	
<b>Name of Additional Joint Inventor, if any:</b>				<input type="checkbox"/> A petition has been filed for this unsigned inventor			
Given Name (first and middle [if any])				Family Name or Surname			
Inventor's Signature				Date			
Residence: City		State		Country		Citizenship	
Post Office Address							
Post Office Address							
City		State		ZIP		Country	

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND  
TRADEMARK OFFICE

PATENT

Applicant(s) or  
Patentee(s):

Docket No.: 27153.2400

Serial or Patent  
No.:

Group Art Unit:

Filed or Issued:

Examiner:

TITLE: Method For Darkening A Superficial Layer Which  
Contains Zinc And Which Is Of A Material Piece

**STATEMENT (DECLARATION) CLAIMING  
SMALL ENTITY STATUS UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§1.9(f) AND 1.27(c) --  
SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN**

Assistant Commissioner of Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231-9998

Sir:

I hereby state that I am:

☐ the owner of the small business concern identified below.

☒ an official of the small business concern empowered to act on behalf of the concern identified below.

NAME OF CONCERN: Ewald Dörken AG

ADDRESS OF CONCERN: Wetterstr. 58, 58313 Herdecke, Germany

I hereby state that the above identified small business concern qualifies as a small business concern as defined in 13 C.F.R. §§121.3-18, and reproduced in 37 C.F.R. §1.9(d), for purposes of paying reduced fees under Section 41(a) and (b) of Title 35, United States Code, in that the number of employees of the concern, including those of its affiliates, does not exceed 500 persons. For purposes of this statement, (1) the number of employees of the business concern is the average over the previous fiscal year of the concern of the persons employed on a full-time, part-time or temporary basis during each of the pay periods of the fiscal year, and (2) concerns are affiliates of each other when either, directly or indirectly, one concern controls or has the power to control the other, or a third party or parties controls or has the power to control both.

I hereby state that rights under contract or law have been conveyed to and remain with the small business concern identified above with regard to the invention, entitled:

Method For Darkening A Superficial Layer Which Contains Zinc  
And Which Is Of A Material Piece

by inventor(s) Thomas Kruse, Prof. Dr. Peter Meisterjahn

described in:

Snell & Wilmer L.L.P.  
One Arizona Center  
400 East Van Buren  
Phoenix, Arizona 85004-0001  
Tel: (602) 382-6000  
Fax: (602) 382-6070

[ x ] the specification filed herewith  
[ ] application serial no. \_\_\_\_\_, filed \_\_\_\_\_  
[ ] patent no. \_\_\_\_\_, issued \_\_\_\_\_

If the rights held by the above-identified small business concern are not exclusive, each individual, concern or organization having rights to the invention is listed below\* and no rights to the invention are held by any person, other than the inventor, who would not qualify as a small business concern under 37 C.F.R. §1.9(d) or a nonprofit organization under 37 C.F.R. §1.9(e).

NOTE: Separate statements are required from each named person, concern or organization having rights to the invention averring to their status as small entities. (37 C.F.R. §1.27)

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

[ ] Individual [ ] Small Business Concern [ ] Nonprofit Organization

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

[ ] Individual [ ] Small Business Concern [ ] Nonprofit Organization

I acknowledge the duty to file, in this application or patent, notification of any change in status resulting in loss of entitlement to small entity status prior to paying, or at the time of paying, the earliest of the issue fee or any maintenance fee due after the date on which status as a small entity is no longer appropriate. (37 C.F.R. §1.28(b))

NAME OF PERSON SIGNING: Dr. Jochen Pläßmann

TITLE OF PERSON OTHER THAN OWNER: Managing Director

ADDRESS OF PERSON SIGNING: Wetterstr. 58, 58313 Herdecke, Germany

SIGNATURE:  DATE 5.6.01

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT  
AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

PATENT

Inventors:: Thomas Kruse, et al.

Atty. Docket No. 27153.2400

Assignee: Ewald Dörken AG

Client Ref. No.: 06918.1 Fsi/Sch

Serial No.:

Filed:

Group Art Unit:

Examiner:

Title: METHOD FOR DARKENING A SUPERFICIAL LAYER WHICH  
CONTAINS ZINC AND WHICH IS OF A MATERIAL PIECE

**POWER OF ATTORNEY AND  
DESIGNATION OF DOMESTIC REPRESENTATIVE**

**Ewald Dörken AG** hereby certifies that, to the best of its knowledge and belief, the entire right, title and interest in the above-captioned United States Patent Application is in Assignee.

**Ewald Dörken AG**, with right, title and interest in and to the above-captioned United States patent application and all inventions disclosed and claimed therein, hereby appoints and designates as its Domestic Representative to prosecute this application for patent and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith and with the resulting patent, individually and collectively:

SNELL & WILMER L.L.P.

One Arizona Center

400 East Van Buren

Phoenix, Arizona 85004-2202

Tel. (602) 382-6000

Fax (602) 382-6070

and each registered patent attorney associated with Snell & Wilmer's Customer No. 020322.

Please send all further correspondence to Snell & Wilmer, L.L.P. at the above address.

Ewald Dörken AG

By: 

Dr. Jochen Pläßmann, Managing Director

Dated: 5/6/01

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